

12. OCCURRENCE OF THE TOAD *BUFO FERGUSONII* BOULENGER IN HYDERABAD, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA (ANURA : BUFONIDAE)

On 8 August 1961, JPD, accompanied by Schuyler Giles, collected several frogs and toads from grassy monsoon puddles in the Banjara Hills neighbourhood of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Among the specimens were two calling males of *Bufo fergusonii* Boulenger (JPD 136, 137), with snout-vent lengths of 30 mm. and 33 mm., respectively.

This species has apparently not been previously reported from Andhra Pradesh, although it has been recorded from the states of Mysore, Kerala, and Madras (J. C. Daniel, 1963 : Field guide to the amphibians of western India, part 1. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 60 : 415-438).

Other anurans collected the same night from similar puddles were *Rana cyanophlyctis* Schneider, and *R. limnocharis* Boie.

All specimens mentioned in this note are deposited in The Museum, Michigan State University.

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13. AN INSECT'S PERSISTENT VITALITY

Entomologists, and even a few laymen like myself, are familiar with the 'decentralization' of an insect's nervous system. Nevertheless, the following instance of persistent vitality may prove of some slight interest.

About 9 o'clock of an April morning, I discovered a large specimen of the Hooded Grasshopper known as *Teratodes monticollis* on a plant in my garden. I picked it up by the wing-cases and found it somewhat sluggish. To kill it, I forcibly pinched its head, and while doing so unintentionally pulled the head clean off; it came away with the front pair of legs and practically all the entrails attached to it. I dropped this on the ground, and close by I dropped the remaining portion consisting of the hind-legs, median legs, wing-cases and the now hollow thorax and abdomen (all attached together).

A few minutes later, I happened to observe that this 'rear end' was standing normally erect, exactly as though it had not lost its head and